

News Release

Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENATE APPROVES DOMENICI LAB FUNDING PLAN ADDING \$70 MILLION FOR SANDIA & LANL WORK

WASHINGTON -- The Senate today approved an emergency funding package that includes \$70 million secured by Senator Pete Domenici for work needed at Sandia and Los Alamos national laboratories this year.

The \$70 million specifically for Sandia and Los Alamos is part of an overall FY2000 emergency supplemental package attached to the FY2001 Military Appropriations Bill, which was passed by the Senate, 96-4, today. Overall, the Domenici DOE amendment totaled \$143 million for urgent funding needs this year within the Department of Energy. *(This emergency package also includes a separate Domenici-authored amendment providing an additional \$85 million for immediate Cerro Grande Fire recovery needs at Los Alamos National Laboratory.)*

Domenici is chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee that has funding jurisdiction over DOE and its nuclear weapons labs and facilities. None of the emergency funding was requested by the Clinton administration.

"I'm pleased we're making progress on this funding, which should help squelch concerns about work slowdowns or workforce furloughs," Domenici said. "As this funding package goes to the conference committee, I will continue to stress that this new FY2000 funding is needed to keep critical work, like pit production at Los Alamos, on schedule."

The New Mexico supplemental funding was negotiated by Domenici with Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska). The \$70 million includes:

- C \$20 million to keep pit production on schedule at Los Alamos National Laboratory *(\$0 requested by Clinton administration);*
- C \$17 million for support of critical personnel and weapons activities at Sandia National Laboratories *(\$0 requested by Clinton administration);*
- C \$13 million for upgrades to the Transportation Safeguards Division based in Albuquerque to address its "marginal" security rating *(\$0 requested by Clinton administration);* and,
- C \$20 million to begin implementation of cyber security upgrades at the most critical areas of the three weapons laboratories *(\$0 requested by Clinton administration).*

A conference committee will now work to reconcile differences in House and Senate versions of defense supplemental funding legislation.